

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A sports shoe comprising:
a sole;
an upper shell monolithically associated with said sole, said sole including a heel unit and a separate toe unit; and

adjusting means for increasing an overall volume of ~~the said~~ sports shoe by way of a forward movement of said toe unit with respect to said heel unit, wherein said adjusting means are adapted to produce an increase in width of said heel unit as a consequence of the forward movement of said toe unit.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The sports shoe of claim 1, wherein said adjusting means for increasing the overall volume of ~~the said~~ sports shoe comprise:
at least one pair of first slots, which are formed in a first lower surface of said toe unit; and

at least two protrusions that protrude upward from a second lower surface of said heel unit;

wherein said first slots ~~being are~~ formed in ~~said the first~~ lower surface of said toe unit along directions that mutually diverge toward a toe region and ~~being are~~ adapted to accommodate said at least two protrusions therein for sliding motion.

4. (Currently Amended) The sports shoe of claim 3, wherein said toe unit has at least one slit that is formed approximately along the longitudinal center axis of ~~said the~~ first lower surface, so as to extend at at least the region of overlap between said toe unit and said heel unit.

5. (Currently Amended) The sports shoe of claim 4, wherein said adjusting means for increasing the overall volume of said sports shoe comprise two flat wings, which are formed by said slit on ~~said the~~ first lower surface of said toe unit, said flat wings being

connected proximate to the toe region, and each one of said pair of first slots being formed in each one of said two wings.

6. (Currently Amended) The sports shoe of claim 5, wherein said slit is substantially wedge-shaped and runs from a rear edge of ~~said~~ the first lower surface; up to the toe region of ~~said~~ the first lower surface.

7. (Currently Amended) The sports shoe of claim 5, wherein said first slots are provided at ~~said~~ the second lower surface arranged with an inclination that allows a gradual increase in width of said heel unit when said toe unit is moved forward.

8. (Previously Presented) The sports shoe of claim 7, wherein said pair of wings are adapted to achieve a divarication by way of a relative movement of said two first slots with respect to said two protrusions.

9. (Currently Amended) The sports shoe of claim 1, wherein said adjusting means for increasing the overall volume of said sports shoe comprise:

at least two first slots formed in a lower surface of said heel unit; and

at least two protrusions that are slidably engageable in said first slots;

wherein said protrusions ~~protruding~~ protrude downward from the lower surface of said toe unit, and said first slots ~~being~~ are provided in said lower surface of said heel unit along directions that mutually diverge toward the toe region.

10. (Currently Amended) The sports shoe of claim 1, ~~being~~ wherein said sports shoe is a ski boot or a skating shoe.

11. (New) A sports shoe comprising:

a sole; and

an upper shell monolithically associated with said sole;

wherein said sole includes a heel unit and a separate toe unit; and

wherein said toe unit is operable to be moved forward with respect to said heel unit so as to increase a width of both of said toe unit and said heel unit caused by the forward movement of said toe unit which pushes outwardly on sides of said heel unit.

12. (New) The sports shoe of claim 11, further comprising:

at least one pair of first slots which are formed in a first lower surface of said toe unit; and

at least two protrusions that protrude upward from a second lower surface of said heel unit;

wherein said first slots are formed in the first lower surface of said toe unit along directions that mutually diverge toward a toe region and are adapted to accommodate said at least two protrusions therein for sliding motion.

13. (New) The sports shoe of claim 12, wherein said toe unit has at least one slit that is formed approximately along the longitudinal center axis of the first lower surface, so as to extend at at least the region of overlap between said toe unit and said heel unit.

14. (New) The sports shoe of claim 13, further comprising two flat wings which are formed by said slit on the first lower surface of said toe unit, said flat wings being connected proximate to the toe region, and each one of said pair of first slots being formed in each one of said two wings.

15. (New) The sports shoe of claim 14, wherein said slit is substantially wedge-shaped and runs from a rear edge of the first lower surface up to the toe region of the first lower surface.

16. (New) The sports shoe of claim 14, wherein said first slots are provided at the second lower surface arranged with an inclination that allows a gradual increase in width of said heel unit when said toe unit is moved forward.

17. (Previously Presented) The sports shoe of claim 16, wherein said pair of wings are adapted to achieve a divarication by way of a relative movement of said two first slots with respect to said two protrusions.

18. (New) The sports shoe of claim 11, further comprising:
at least two first slots formed in a lower surface of said heel unit; and
at least two protrusions that are slidingly engageable in said first slots;
wherein said protrusions protrude downward from the lower surface of said toe unit, and said first slots are provided in said lower surface of said heel unit along directions that mutually diverge toward the toe region.

19. (New) The sports shoe of claim 11, wherein said sports shoe is a ski boot or a skating shoe.